

Consumer News index: Vol. 7, part 1: Jan. 1, 1977—June 15, 1977

Below is an index to CONSUMER NEWS and its supplements CONSUMER REGISTER and RATE REGISTER for the issues published Jan. 1, 1977 through June 15, 1977.

Date and page of the newsletter are given after each subject. "Home study courses Jun 15:3" means an item about home study courses appeared on page 3 of the June 15 issue of CONSUMER NEWS. Subjects that appeared in CONSUMER REGISTER or RATE REGISTER are designated by "CR" or "RR" before date and page number. "CR Feb 1:1" means page one of the Feb. 1 issue of CONSUMER REGISTER: "RR Apr 1:2" means page one of April 1 issue of RATE REGISTER.

Recalls, warnings and publications are listed only once—under main entries for "Recalls," "Warnings" and "Publications." Also, RATE REGISTER subjects are listed only once—under RATE REGISTER.

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Below is an index to CONSUMER NEWS and its supplements CONSUMER REGISTER and RATE REGISTER for the issues published July 1, 1977 through Dec. 15, 1977. (RATE REGISTER was discontinued as a separate section on Sept. 1.)

Date and page of the newsletter are given after each subject. "Electric cords Nov 15:3" means an item about electric cords appeared on page 3 of the Nov. 15 issue of CONSUMER NEWS. Subjects that appeared in CONSUMER REGISTER or RATE REGISTER are designated by "CR" or "RR" before date and page number. "CR Jul 1:1" means page one of the July 1 issue of CONSUMER REGISTER; "RR Aug 15:2" means page 2 of the Aug. 15 issue of RATE REGISTER.

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No bones about it

Both Esther Peterson, Special Assistant to the President for Consumer Affairs, and the **Office of Consumer Affairs (OCA)** have commented on **Agriculture Dept.'s** revised proposal to permit the use of meat food products prepared by mechanical processing of ground bone (See **CONSUMER REGISTER** Nov. 15, 1977). The new meat product is called tissue from ground bone (TGB) instead of mechanically deboned meat (MDM) as originally proposed.

Under the original proposal, the legal definition of meat would have been changed and consumers would not have readily known if processed meat products purchased used MDM which contains particles of ground bone. The new proposal would classify TGB as a meat product requiring clear labeling, and limit the amount of the TGB to 20% of the meat or poultry in a given product.

Mrs. Peterson said the new proposal "safeguards consumers' health, safety and right to know, permits industry to take advantage of new technology, and provides clear and enforceable standards for government regulation of TGB."

OCA praised Agriculture "on its effort to make this untapped protein source available to consumers," while allowing consumers to "make an informed choice among competing products."

TGB contains small amounts of calcium resulting from processing and Mrs. Peterson said that the proposed regulations require "adequate labeling of products with TGB so that persons who must restrict their intake of calcium or wish to avoid TGB for other reasons can do so."

The comments noted 2 points omitted in the proposed rules, however. First, the new rule does not require consumers to be informed that food served in restaurants and other commercial settings or institutions contains TGB. The second omission cited is a provision that would allow processors who do not use TGB to include a label statement that a product does not contain TGB. "Such statements," Mrs. Peterson said, "would be a real service to consumers who want to avoid TGB," and who may not be sufficiently aware of the fine points of Agriculture's labeling requirements to know that TGB must be listed on the label if it is present in the product.

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